
SADASKI;

OR,

THE WANDERING PENITENT.



THE WAREHOUSE PENITENT

SADASKI;
OR,
THE WANDERING PENITENT,

BY THOMAS BELLAMY.

AUTHOR OF MISCELLANIES IN PROSE AND VERSE.

Gr. Gr. Gr.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

London:

PRINTED FOR G. SÆL, STRAND:
AND SOLD BY H. D. SYMONDS, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
W. EARLE, FRITH-STREET;
AND BY THE AUTHOR,
King-Street, Covent Garden,

1798.

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THE WANDERING PENITENT

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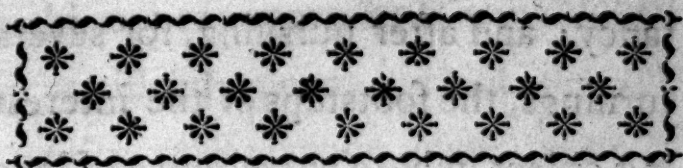
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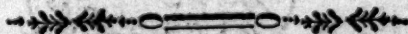
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AND BY THE AUTHOR,
10, BROADWAY, LONDON.



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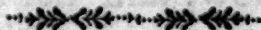
OR,

THE WANDERING PENITENT.



CHAP. XII.

MORE FELL THAN THE TYGER IN THE DESERT,
WHEN DRIVEN BY HUNGER IN SEARCH OF
PREY, IS THE HEART OF AN ABANDONED
WOMAN, INTENT ON SECURING THE MEANS OF
VENGEANCE ON ITS DESTINED OBJECT.



WHEN Sadaski found himself in-
closed, beyond a possibility
of retreat, he repented of his precipi-

tancy; and after pursuing, for several turnings, the footsteps of the interesting object, whose appearance of innocence, and simplicity, had prevented due reflection 'till too late—he suddenly stopped—saying, “ Whither, gentle nymph, art thou to lead a wretched stranger, already nearly lost, in paths unknown, in perplexities unexampled?” His guide continued silent to his enquiries, but waving her wand, and placing her finger on her lips, Sadaski concluded it was his part to follow, and her's to preserve silence.

His beautiful conductress led Sa-

daski to an apartment enlightened by artificial means, while the immensity of its space gave an air of grandeur which it derived not from ornament.

The passages and chamber of the rock appeared more like the work of excessive labour, than consummate art:—more like an asylum from danger, than a retreat for luxury.

Here were assembled, apparently in private debate, such of the attendants of Kaphira, who were admitted to her confidence and council. Ismena, who enjoyed the largest por-

tion of her favor, advanced toward Sadaski, saying "Respected stranger! I welcome you to an abode where you will be secure from malice or intrusion; and I welcome you, in the name of the beautiful Kaphira, whom the prince of these realms, long the object of her loathing and abhorrence, first beheld, while yet an infant on her native plains.

"Far removed from cities, in the valley of peace, resided the parent of Kaphira. That unhappy parent, in the morning of his life, in the fullness of his joy, was bereft of the partner of his existence. His first tears

were shed over the grave of his beloved: they were the tears of the heart, and the vital stream that warmed it, flowed after them.—Aranthes was laid by the side of her for whom he died; and lovers, in the hours of silence, repair to the sod that covers their remains, and there exchange the vows of mutual affection.

“Aranthes, in the moment of his departure, consigned Kaphira to the care and protection of the friend of his early days, who removed her to the mansion of peace; and a few revolving suns beheld her matchless

beauties expand, and ripen to perfection.

“Those fatal charms won many an heart, and contending rivals sought favour in her sight.—Cold as the snow upon the mountain’s height, that yields not to the sun, as it’s rays, visit its lofty summit; so cold remained Kaphira. But still she exulted in the power of her charms; for the bosom of Kaphira swelled with pride, though it deigned not to admit the softer influence of love.

“The prince listened to the voice of those who were lavish of their

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words, as they dwelt on the beauties of the daughter of Arantes; he called to mind the promise of her infancy, determined to quit the palace of his father in disguise, repair to the abode of her venerable guardian, and remove her from thence, to the splendours of a court, to shine a brilliant star amidst its proudest beauties!

“ In the sequestered valley, where she roved, pure as the streamlet in which she delighted to view the graces of her own form and countenance, and lovely as the flowers which bedecked her waving locks;

she was met by the Prince. Kaphira knew him not: the garb of humility, and the change of time, concealed him from her knowledge.

“ He remained not long unknown: Kaphira inclined to the declaration of his passion, listened with exulting emotion, to the flattering display of the Palace of the Golden Realms; and the Prince on his departure, was gratified with the consent, he had thus laboured to obtain.—The lost Kaphira yielded to his wishes, and sacrificed her virtue to her ambition.

“ Her pride still revolted at the

meanness of falshood, and she denied, what she had not to bestow,—affection. The Prince descended so far as to accept her person, independent of the only gift which, in a breast more noble, could alone render it valuable.

“But the degraded heir to the throne of this devoted land, throughout the transient period of his existence, remained an abject slave to the grosser passions; and Kaphira, but too conscious of his failing, regarded him with inward detestation;—nor was she sparing in the occasional and public display of her rooted contempt.

“The prince affected not to feel the indignities he repeatedly experienced; and the cup of intemperance dissipated the unpleasant reflections arising from her indifference. In the hours of inebriation, and he has of late known few that were not so, he has sought in vain the society of Kaphira; whom, notwithstanding the errors of the exalted character she thus presumed to disdain, she was bound to treat with, at least, outward respect, and distinction. But, alas, Kaphira, little aware of the danger of public discontent, disguised not her sentiments against him to whom she was indebted for her elevation; she still suffered the dupe

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to her incessant demands to drain the public stores, which were lavished in the support of her extravagances; till at length the prince appeared to listen to the council of the few disinterested friends he still retained about his person; who strove to make him sensible of the disgrace he had incurred, and the peril in which he stood as the next in succession to his father's diadem.

“In order to satisfy the public mind, and prove the sincerity of his reformation, he was prevailed upon to accede to proposals of alliance, offered by a foreign power; in which a princess,

whose virtues are universally acknowledged, was to be rendered a sacrifice to political conveniency.

“Thus restored to the dignity he had sullied by his excesses, hopes were formed that he would still do justice to his birth, and one day support the first office of the realm, with honour to himself, and comfort to his future subjects.

“But alas! these hopes were scarcely formed, when the prince reverting to his former follies, the general odium was revived; and thousands who had contributed to relieve him from demands

disgraceful to his rank and expectations, united in execrations against his shameless ingratitude, and unpardonable duplicity.

“ It might be imagined that Kaphira would again render him the subject of her caprice, and the creature of her will, but her power was at an end; and she felt, as deeply as a soul like that she owned, could be supposed to feel, the foreboding change she experienced. In every public assembly the prince exhibited his powers of severe retaliation; and, as is ever the case with weak minds, he exulted in the numerous occasions which pre-

sented themselves to prove that Kaphira was indeed fallen!

“ Her last consolation was yet left; —revenge; the dearest resource of an injured woman, was still in her power; and her only hope consisted, in rendering that revenge equal to her wrongs, and worthy of herself.

“ The task is finished; in me you behold the minister of Kaphira’s vengeance; the work of retribution is complete. The prince can no more offend: nor can the indignant sufferer again be insulted with his presence.

- "Your looks, Sadaski, tell me, you suspect the object, the manner, the moment, and the time; and you are not mistaken. You beheld the intemperate youth surrounded by those, who with myself are now in this asylum, I hope, beyond the reach of pursuit or punishment.

"The party at that time with the prince, detained him in its circle, by every attractive and varied art, which our sex can so well assume, when bent on the completion of a wish or purpose.—Your absence, and the inward grief which clouded your brow, rendered your appearance singular, and

you became the object of his particular notice. At that moment you were seated in a part of the hall which the assembly had deserted. It was a moment suited to our intent; there were no witnesses to give instant alarm, and we could act with the greater security.

“ When flushed with the maddening juice of the purple grape, he approached, with unsteady step, towards you, and you beheld him with looks of mingled contempt and pity; you likewise beheld one of the nymphs, in playful motion, raise her snowy arm, and drop, in the goblet which he grasp-

ed, the herb of death; while with the other she entwined, with well feigned fondness, the reeling wretch; her instant sacrifice to the greatly wronged Kaphira.

“ While to the lute’s enchanting melody, we joined in the strain he ever chose, in his hours of clamorous dissipation; but which, in the state he was then in, he could with difficulty articulate, you beheld him fall. The unsuspecting attendants, attributed the circumstance to a different cause; and as was usual in his excesses, they imagined the prince would again revive and join with spirits renewed, the party most inclined to boisterous merriment.”

Sadaski had listened to the close of the history of the unhappy prince with that alarm it could not fail to excite; and when his narrator ended, his fixed gaze of horror, and deep drawn sigh, spoke his disapprobation of her act. The instrument of Kaphira's vengeance, perceived too plainly, that the soul of Sadaski revolted at the relation she had given, and was the first thus to break the expressive and foreboding silence.

“Sadaski appears wrapped in deep amazement; but, let him prepare his mind to receive a truth, in which he

must still experience a stronger interest."

Here, surveying her astonished hearer, as if she would fain penetrate the secret workings of his soul, she plucked from her vest, a blood-stained dagger!—"This arm" continued the now infuriate speaker, "This arm, Salski, has not been idle in the work of death; and this bosom has long ceased to pant with the weak and degrading tumults of the softer passion.—It is no woman's tale I have to unfold; I have just redressed the wrongs of an insulted sister in debasement; and, while warmed and exulting in the

contemplation of this impurpled steel, I have undertaken the deed, I have accomplished: with frantic alacrity, I flew to a second vengeance on that monster man; and triumph in the fall of another MITHRANES!!!

The husband of Emira, attempted to speak, but utterance failed him. The murderer of the prince paused for a time, and by degrees, becoming more calm, she continued in a tone less impassioned. "When perfectly assured the poison had performed its office, I repaired hither, with my party, in the interest of Kaphira, who remains a stranger to my real name, which Sa-

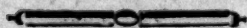
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daski likewise must not disclose.—
Here she lifted up her veil, and displayed to the trembling Sadaski—the form and features of the abandoned Selima!



C H A P. XIII,

DAUGHTERS OF VIRTUE, WOULD YOU RETAIN
THE FIRST OF BLESSINGS, PERSEVERE IN CAU-
TION AND HUMILITY; PITY THE ERRORS,
AND AVOID THE PATHS OF THE FALLEN OF
THY SEX, BUT VAUNT NOT OVER THEIR MIS-
FORTUNE.—WHEN THE PRECEPTS OF ALLA
ARE FORGOTTEN, PURITY DESERTS THE BO-
SOM.



A vision of the night could not have
raised greater alarm in the bosom of
Sadaski, than did the unexpected ap-
pearance of the former object of his

misplaced regard; and he could only utter, "If thou art indeed the Selima I once knew, thy presence and thy words are alike mysterious."

The artful Selima, well aware that Kaphira's situation demanded the instant support and council of Sadaski, hastened to relieve his mind of every painful doubt concerning the fate of Mithranes.

In accents mild and persuasive, she entreated that he would attend to her brief relation of circumstances in which his happiness or misery was so mate-

rially involved.—Selima thus continued.

“ When Sadaski fled from the recesses of Mithranes, he fled as an assassin from the pursuit of justice:—but Mithranes received not the wound of death; neither was the Emira by his side, the Emira of Sadaski.

“ Orantes had long been the secret enemy of the proud Mithranes—Orantes pined in secret for vengeance—heavy on his soul pressed the dishonour and death of his sister Zelis!

“ Every means that art could de-

wise was applied to, to effect the destruction of a tyrant who disgraced the station to which he had been exalted.

“When Emira became the object of his passion, Orantes proposed the night-revelry in the subterranean chamber. On that fatal night of death and vengeance I was induced to personate Emira. The veil concealed my countenance; and a similar dress completed the deception; and thus, as Emira, did Orantes present me to the enraptured and deceived Mithranes.—But in the eagerness to effect a mutual vengeance, we lost sight of the dan-

ger in which I was placed; we considered not that Sadaski aimed a double blow, and that Emira and Mithranes were to share the same fate.

“To account for my own conduct on this eventful night, it is necessary I should explain my injuries.—Alas! Orantes well knew I had abundant cause to hold in fixed hatred the violator of my virgin innocence.

“Fair and spotless, I resided beneath the roof of adoring parents. The generous, and graceful Abdul, sought and obtained a heart, then guileless and happy. It was our delight, and

custom, to wander in the rural shade, and, without a witness, to indulge in the chaste endearments of genuine, and reciprocal affection.

“ One fatal night, having wandered farther from our home than was our wonted custom, we were met on our return by pitiless and daring men, employed by the vile Mithranes, to convey me for ever from the arms of the ill-fated Abdul, whose exertions against superior force were of no avail, and whose cries were soon stifled by the dagger’s point.

“ I was instantly conveyed to the

mansion of Mithranes.—The choice of life and indignity;—of death and honour, were placed before me.—I chose the former; and, but too soon, grew reconciled to my destiny.

“When in your native vale, the palace of Mithranes was completed, I accompanied its owner thither.—My parents were still alive, and a price was paid, which raised them from abject misery, and which procured my perfect obedience.

“I pass over in silence, circumstances, mutually known; which must now be forgotten; and confine myself

to a moment of more material import.

“ That moment, so long wished for by Orantes, at length arrived; to me also it proved a moment of triumph. Mithranes could only be the object of my detestation; jealousy could not possibly have the smallest share in my feelings; but still, as I descended with Orantes to the subterranean chambers, I experienced my secret exultation not a little heightened, by the recollection of his late indifference; and my satisfaction was still more increased, when Orantes informed me that Emira was conveyed to the seraglio

of the sultan; and that, as a reward for his services, it was decreed he should enter upon the honours his master had so compleatly forfeited.

“When seated on the throne, I recollected the peril of my situation, and my instant fears would have betrayed all, and saved Mithranes, had not you, Sadaski, suddenly rushed upon, and, (as I vainly imagined) completed your own vengeance, and that of Selima.

“With well-feigned grief I mourned over Mithranes, but how inconceivable was my disappointment, when by the attention of some officious few,

he shewed signs of life.—I listened to the expression of their hopes, but, at the same moment, I made up my mind to the part I determined to perform. I flung myself on the earth; I tore the tresses from my head; I shrieked as if wrung with the throbs of unutterable affliction;—I turned from the voice of consolation, and refused to seek repose. Drowned in tears, and apparently convulsed with heart-drained sobbings, I expressed my firm resolve to watch his slumbers during the night—resolved that night to complete the work Sadaski had left unfinished.

Mithranes was conveyed to an inner

chamber;—the assembly had retired to the distant retreats.—As I was watching by his side, he viewed me with a countenance, in which was strongly pictured, repentance, tenderness, and gratitude. With low and quivering accent, he expressed his thanks; and I thought of—mercy; but that thought, Sadaski, was only the weakness of the moment.

At length all was still!—Every spark of pity became extinct in my labouring bosom, as the murdered Abdul rushed upon remembrance—No eye beheld me—the tyrant slumbered—then wherefore hesitate?—I rose from the seat to which I had re-

tired;—I approached the couch;—on swift return, I felt all the frenzy of revenge;—I thirsted for his blood;—I bared his bosom;—I removed the sear-cloth from that seat of perfidy.—With his own dagger,—(and I whispered—
 ‘ Perhaps, thou art the same damned steel that drank the blood of Abdul!’)
 I deepened the wound;—the fresh agony aroused him; he opened his eyes, groaned forth ‘ treacherous, cruel, and accursed Selima!’—and expired!

The history of Selima involved a discovery of the last moment to Saldaski. Her account of the fate of Mithranes, lightened not the weight of

his own deep, and actual guilt in the business of that dark and dreadful moment.

Turning from the daring and pitiless avenger of her own wrongs, he pondered on what he had just heard fall from her lips.—In stifled agony, and in hollow and smothered accent, he exclaimed, “Still lost, and still wretched Sadaski! the wound was inflicted by thy hand; thou art still a murderer; the victim was prepared by thee for the *second slaughter* of the still more remorseless Selima!”

Selima, too conscious of her dupli-

city in the part she had acted towards Sadaski, ventured not on her own justification.—She observed in silence his emotions, and well divined their cause. To remove those doubts in his mind, which must lead him to question the sincerity of her friendship, she was sensible would prove a task of no little difficulty, even for art consummate as her own. But what the *moment* denied, she left to the effect of *time*,

Thus engaged in separate reflections, were Sadaski and Selima, when they were interrupted by a messenger from Kaphira; who remained some time in private conversation with the confidant

of that unhappy victim to those passions which were now on the eve of completing her ruin.

As the messenger withdrew, he said aloud,—“The friend of Ismena awaits the presence of the stranger, Sadaski.”



CHAP. XIV,

TRUTH DISCLAIMS THE ARGUMENT OF THE INSIDIOUS SOPHIST, ADMITTED ONLY BY GUILT WHEN IT WOULD DEFEND ITS OWN DEED. VIRTUE HAS BUT ONE ROAD; AND HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO NEVER WANDER FROM IT.



SADASKI heard the summons he felt no inclination to obey; and as Selima advanced to repeat it, he hastily arose, and impatiently uttered, —“ Can Selima lead to her friend Kaphira, the man who holds her principles in abhorrence?—Can she pos-

sibly imagine, the unfolding a tale of mystic horror, and thus adding fresh pungency to every mental wound, has restored to him, what, alas, he once possessed--a conscience of repose; and a mind of peace?"

At the words of Sadaski the countenance of Selima darkened, turned pale, and expressed the mingled emotions of rancour, dread, and disappointment.

"Beware," she rejoined, "beware, Sadaski, the reproach you seem to meditate!"

"The objects of my vengeance sleep in death; nor can any vain regrets, or mean compunction on your part, or on mine, bring back the life they have so deeply forfeited.

"As for your Emira, dismiss from your mind, if there you have had the folly to admit it, the fond idea that she will quit the arms of her sultan, to return to those of Sadaski.

"But the moment is too important, to waste time in the indulgence of feelings which would only disgrace the bosom opened to receive them.

"Your averted looks, and the coldness of your manner sufficiently demonstrate, that I am no longer the object of your particular regard; nor can you be more averse than I am, to a revival of those endearments which once subsisted between us.

"The dignity of our sex consists in virtue.—Is that a truth of which I remain insensible? my pride, my wrongs forbid it!—no Sadaski!—this bosom beats no more to the sensations of the softer passion.—I am conscious, how low, how very low it has already plunged me; nor can the moralizing censorer, with every argu-

ment summoned to his aid; with every sentiment called forth to embellish his fruitless dictates, render the abject Selima, more sensible than she is of a loss which can never be restored!"

"Fain would I divine and speak to the cause of your hesitation. Doubtless, you demand my motive for becoming an inhabitant of this realm?—Know then, that loaded with stores of wealth, I hastily bade adieu to your native, your detested vale.—Journeying through paths of privacy, and of danger, I came at length to a resting

place, not far removed from this region of luxury and pleasure.

“From the flattering description, which appearances strengthened, I determined to fix my residence among those with whom riches supplied the
of virtue.

“My situation procured me respect; my beauty, of which like Kaphira, I have ever been but too sensible, became the theme of every tongue; I revelled in the glittering circle, I listened to the prevailing sounds of adulation, and, every passing hour had its separate enjoyment.

“ To prevent a possibility of discovery, I assumed the name of Ismena, and disposed of my treasures to those who were too much interested in the exchange they furnished, even to imagine the insolence of enquiry.

“ In the giddy circles of dissipation, I stifled those emotions which I could not altogether dismiss; and among those circles, I first met with Kaphira.

“ Mutual wrongs, Sadaski, rendered us partial to each other: attachment, strengthened by a parity of sentiment and of sorrow, instantly commenced;

but, too much elevated by the ever changing scenes of pomp and expence, which glittered before my eyes in the mansion of Kaphira, my stores, considerable as they were, were quickly involved in destructive *imitation*.

“This change in my circumstances was known only to Kaphira. From the coffers of the prince, she drew forth supplies, equal to our wants; and the splendour I gloried in suffered no diminution.

“But the moment at length arriv-
when she could no longer avail her-

self of the resources which she imagined would have remained for ever open to her constant demands; her power over the prince was no more; the loss of that power was succeeded by debasement, and that debasement by the work of vengeance.

“ You know the rest!—and now, —where are we to ground our hope? Where—but in the generous aid, and counsel of Sadaski.

“ Loaded as you are with the costly spoils of the cabinets of Mithranes, it is to you we look up for assistance. Our escape from this place, where

death awaits discovery, can only be effected but through your means.—How long, even here, we may rest secure, remains uncertain:—artfully concealed as are these mazy passages—there are yet those who know their clue, and are acquainted with the means of entrance.

“These retreats, indeed, afforded an asylum for the prince, and were enlarged by his command, and rendered as you now behold them. It was at a time when he had incurred the deep displeasure of the people, and was even on the point of becoming a victim to their rage.

“To shelter himself from instant danger, he flew to a solitude near these mountains; where the cowardly despot remained, for a time, in imagined security.

“An antient hermit who had left his cell in search of fruits, met the prince, in one of his excursions from his secret home. The fugitive was known to the hermit, who had once mixed with a world from whence he had been rudely driven by wrong, ingratitude, and disappointment.

“The path leading to the cavern, and which the venerable recluse had

discovered, when impelled to seek a hiding place, ran winding amidst the luxuriant verdure which cloathed the mountain's side.

“ Before they reached the entrance to the obscure recess, they had attained an awful and dizzy height. Nor was the rugged descent less hazardous and perplexing.

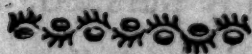
“ The prince expressed surprize that any one should make choice of an abode, which he could not quit or return to, without extreme toil and difficulty. Its aged inmate replied, “ Were it otherwise, I should no

longer consider that abode as a place of perfect security.'

"The clamour against the prince, from its being but too justly grounded, did not suddenly subside. During his stay in the cavern, he procured artificers, who experienced, in a very extensive degree, that secrecy had its price. Those artificers, beheld its natural conveniences with admiration, and chearfully pursued, and happily completed their task of excessive toil and ingenuity.

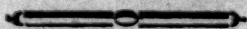
"The secret inlet through which you were admitted, was perfected at

this period. The contrivance, while it proved the cunning of the artist, prevented the painful necessity of again passing a road, so hazardous in its ascent, and its declivity, as that which led to the natural entrance of the cavern, at the lofty summit of the mountain; and from thence into its profound depths."



CHAP. XV.

THE JOYS WHICH INNOCENCE BESTOWS, ARE
ONLY SHORT OF THOSE OF IMMORTALITY.—
ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF VIRTUE,
AND TRANQUILLITY WILL NEVER DESERT
THY BOSOM.



SELIMA, thus continued, "It was by my counsel that Kaphira fled hither; but I begin to repent she ever listened to it.—At every echo I experience alarm—and I dread the fulfilment of my apprehensions. But, if, instead of extricating from threatening

danger, it should eventually prove, that I have even led her into the dreaded toil; my choice is soon made, and as our sorrows have been similar, so shall be our fate.

“In the presence of the prince, who could not then hazard a return to his father’s court, the hermit closed his days of sorrow.

“During his last hours, he unfolded a circumstance of extreme importance to the interest and security of a land; which a rule like that of the martyr to Kaphira’s wrongs, would only have disgraced, had he lived to have

wielded the sceptre, and worn the diadem.

“ Persecuted as he was, on every side, here the hermit said, he imagined himself at length secure:—and here, without a witness, he bewailed the loss of those who had been involved in misfortunes which had driven him from society.

“ His only consolation lay in wandering among the divisions of those mountains which surround that, in the heart of which he had fixed his residence.

When he first beheld them ; from the barren aspect of their towering heights ; from their dusky and wave-worn fides which skirt the mighty ocean ; and from their craggy stations, where he first listened to the roaring of the billowy waste ; he formed no hope of procuring any other sustenance, than what its smaller inhabitants afforded, as they were left within his reach by the receding waters.

“ But his apprehensions were soon removed. As he passed over to the land-side, he surveyed a pleasing contrast. It abounded in wood,

fruit, and verdure; among which meandered the clear rivulet which had laved them to perfection,

“Pleased that he could rove in such perfect solitude and security, he frequently walked forth from his cell, and ventured to such distances, that the shades of night would, at times, overtake him ere his return.

“In one of these rambles a sudden storm obliged him to hasten for shelter to a grove of palms.

“He had arisen early from his leafy pallet, which he renewed every re-

volving morn, and was on his return with a fresh supply ; (for exercise relieved his mind, and diverted his attention from the ponderings of oppressive grief) when the continuance of the storm induced him to drop his burthen, and he explored the windings of a path, rendered peculiarly attractive by its green and mossy surface, being profusely studded by a numerous tribe of wild flowers. Amidst the abundant foliage, the notes of its innocent natives resounded with blended melody !

“ Now, Sadaski, I arrive at that period of the hermit's story, which de-

mands your attention. The walk terminated at the entrance of a cavern of equal magnitude with that he had so lately quitted; and as it seemed to afford greater conveniences, and its situation rendering it more desirable, he determined instantly on becoming its tenant, and quitting his former abode.

“ Having spread his leaves, and feeling fatigue, he threw himself upon them, and experienced a long and grateful repose.

“ The night was dark and tempestuous, and he was at length awakened

by the moaning of the wind. Again he endeavoured to close his eyes in sleep, and was again on the point of sinking beneath its influence, when he was once more aroused:—not by the storm, which was nearly abated, but by the sound of a human voice, and, listening, he heard.—“It cannot be done without shedding blood!”

“Trembling with dismay, he arose, dreading the chance of his steps being heard, and determined, although total darkness still prevailed over all things to explore his way back to his old habitation; and brave the dangers of the ascending path, although the tem-

pest still continued, and it would prove at such a moment doubly hazardous.

“He had just formed his resolve, when a powerful stream of light, created fresh alarm, and checked his further progress.

“While irresolute how to act in the perilous situation in which he stood, he beheld through a chasm, and at a considerable distance, several persons bearing torches, and examining a vaulted space, with no visible termination; along which they proceeded

'till they were lost, by extreme distance, to his view.

“Curiosity now gained the ascendance over fear.—And he resolved, at the first dawn of light to make himself acquainted with the way they had taken.

“The wished for moment arrived.—The chasm was wide enough to admit him, and, setting every fear aside, he pursued his road for an immensity of length through the interior of the mountains, enlightened by frequent apertures formed by nature; from whence its ripened fruits, with which

the branches of the trees which flourished above were surcharged, were continually dropping, as if to court him onward without fear of hunger or of thirst; for a clear and pleasant water ran gurgling by his side, and here and there, glistened to the partial light which darted across his inclosed and romantic way.

“ His journey was not attended by fatigue; during the day he travelled with ease to himself: the fruits were still spread in his path, and the water still flowed, in its narrow channel, by his side. At night he rested undisturbed by any noxious insect, and

his slumbers were unbroken. ‘The hand of Providence’, said he, ‘seemed as if guarding my footsteps, and comforting me on my way for some important end.’”

“He emerged at length from the twilight depth. By imperceptible degrees, he entered upon a country, blooming with plenty.—The verdant wealth which crowned the numerous hills, and smiled along the vallies, filled his grateful mind with rapturous emotions:—his duty was not forgotten:—he praised the bounteous **ALLA!!!—**”

Selima paused.—She appeared to contemplate the looks of Sadaski, which were fixed upon her as she pronounced the awful name !

At length, stifling an involuntary sigh, she exclaimed, “ Insult me not, Sadaski.—Those who have once pursued the ways of virtue, can never utterly renounce the principles in which they were nurtured.—The recollection of what they have been will, at times, force itself on the overcharged heart, and, again ring the knell of its lost felicity !”

CHAP. XVI.

THE WICKED WEAVE THEIR OWN WEB; AND
THE COLOUR OF THEIR FATE IS TINCTURED
WITH THAT OF THEIR CRIMES.



THE contemplative glance of the husband of Emira, still remained fixed on its object:—and still, wrapped in emphatic silence, excessive feeling checked the power of utterance!

At length he became collected

enough, thus to reply to the keen reproof, and impressive observation of the minister and advocate of the greatly daring, and still more vindictive Kaphira,

“ —Selima was surely ordained for nobler ends than those she is unhappily pursuing ; and pursuing, alas ! in defiance of the eternal laws of the immutable and all righteous Alla.

“ Her reflections on the fatal conduct of a martyr to vice, are surely those of an advocate for virtue.

“ From what inexplicable cause

she has deviated from her native paths of purity, and of honour, to which she was once confined; creates, indeed, concern and wonder in the labouring bosom of the every way perplexed and deserted Sadaski. But deserted as he is, the mercies of Alla are unbounded as his power; they will again return, they will enlighten, and render calm the evening of his days, which he trusts will no more be disgraced by deliberate disobedience.

Selima listened to the words of her monitor, and affected an indifference to which in reality her bosom re-

mained a stranger. She too plainly perceived the spirit of Sadaski was by no means favourable to her design ; she was also sensible his sentiments respecting the conduct of Kaphira and herself were immoveable; and that his principles would but ill accord with the proposition, with which she was to close the narrative of the hermit,

With a shew of impatience, she was unable to disguise, she called upon the attention of Sadaski, to the remainder of her relation ; and while her countenance reddened and turned pale with the conflicts of hope and

fear, she said, " moments are too important to waste in attending to the hacknied effusions of disappointment and melancholy. The hermit's discovery is a theme more interesting and important ; it is a call upon your courage and exertion ; a call, Sadaski, which you cannot reject ;—prove your public virtue, or your pretensions to private worth, or those of an hypocrite, and an enemy to the general good of the human race."

" I left our hermit in the admiration of every object around him. By easy journies, and through a delightful country, he still proceeded onward,

till at length he entered the capital of Ardelia.

“ Ardelia was almost wholly encircled by the ocean. It was divided from the Golden Realm by a vast and trackless waste of land, which for ages had been considered as impassable. Its breadth was considerable; and its length unknown. On either side a heavy sea roared over its bed of innumerable rocks, preventing the approach of any vessel. The passes between the mountains had once been the haunt of an order of men, who erected in the numerous groves which flourished amidst the winding vallies,

their rude temples to the god of nature.

Their manners were as harmless as their lives were pure; but as arts and commerce increased, native simplicity declined. From being adored, they were at length only suffered; and in process of time they sunk into contempt and ridicule. Their harmless rites were frequently disturbed, their temples destroyed, and their priests insulted.

Thus reviled and persecuted, they retired to a more remote distance among the mountains, and buried themselves

in almost impenetrable solitudes. Their race dwindled away by degrees; and now the mouldering ruins of their rustic fanes, which have been occasionally visited by those whose love for the vestages of antiquity would induce them to tempt any hazard, are the only memorial of their once having existed.

“ A party of this description had lately left the city on a journey among the intricate wilds of Mirronia; which they had engaged, in contempt of every peril to explore, in search of riches that were said to lay buried

beneath the ruins of the Mirronean temples.

“The daring enterprize was considered in every point of view, according to the temper and disposition of those who took upon themselves to judge of the attempt. By some it was looked upon as romantic; by others as practicable; but by all as difficult and dangerous.

“Resolved, however, to brave every difficulty, they departed, amidst the tears of their friends and relatives; and departed as from those they might never more behold.—But what will

not enterprizing man attempt to satisfy public enquiry, to establish a fame, and to secure the first of human blessings—independence.

“ From the length of time elapsed since their departure, the public formed apprehensions that they had perished in their attempt. Their adventure was no longer the general theme, and themselves were almost lost to remembrance, and if by chance, their names were mentioned, it was sometimes with pity, but more frequently with blame. So prone is a misjudging multitude to praise or censure, as fortune may forward, or frustrate those attempts which

are beyond the conception of the common orders of society.

“ When the hermit entered the city of Ardelia, it was amidst public rejoicings for their sudden and unexpected return. Every tongue was lavish in their praise; the individual who had entertained a doubt, now laboured to disown it; and those who were the happiest in expressing their approbation, and in shewing their respect to the successful adventurers, were considered as the best citizens; and were held most worthy of that distinction in public places which little

minds so ardently seek for, and labour by every superficial means to retain.

“It was not the bringing home of hidden treasures, drawn from the bowels of the earth, that thus created general admiration.—They returned to proclaim a subject of an import, far more material and brilliant. They had discovered the SECRET WAY, and preparations were instantly to commence for the conquest of the GOLDEN REALM.

“The hermit was no longer at a loss to account for the appearances which had so much alarmed

him in the cavern; and, in a weak and false love for an ungrateful land; he lost no time in quitting Ardelia; and in returning to his cell to advise the prince of the lurking danger.

That return was not long survived by the hermit; and the prince, conscious of having no claim to the love of the people, listened to the council of Kaphira, which was, at all times to retain, within these confines, a sworn, chosen, and armed force, which might serve his purpose in any future emergency.

And well has she counselled; she has

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now but two roads.—That to Ardelia offers power, place, and distinction;—that to the Golden Realm—disgrace and death.

And what can possibly withhold Sadaski from pursuing the track of his friends?—It leads from sorrow to happiness:—Can he pause in making the exchange?

But see you not in this history I have given, the contemptible character of the prince. His extreme debility of mind, rendered him, even to himself, a curse; and, had he been

permitted to live, such would he have proved to his people.

Ages of freedom and felicity are secured to insulted millions by the death of the heir to the throne of these Realms. Blame not, therefore, what I have effected in the cause of Kaphira. It is a cause in which the public good is involved, and who shall plead against it.

When the stately monument is raised over the ashes of the king, in the Temple of Statues, it will cover the last of a race whose government has been a source of general evil:—those who

regard the public weal, look forward with ardent hope to the long wished for period, when death may pluck the crown from his brow, and the sceptre from his hand.

Come then, Sadaski; place yourself at the head of a selected and determined few. Advance to meet a free and noble people.—It is possible we may find them on their approach against this puny land, which now lays open to their attack; and which their conquering arms will speedily overwhelm.

The secret outlet is known only to Kaphira, and her party; the Ardelians are already secure of victory; it will be in the power of Sadaski to render it bloodless. Their march to the natural entrance of the cavern would prove painful; from thence to the fertile and open plains, hazardous.—In that case, resistance would be made, and mutual slaughter must of necessity ensue.—Will it not therefore be gratifying to the humanity of Sadaski, as their guiding star, to point out the only means of securing the lives of thousands?—Does he yet pause?—Does he still refuse the proffered distinction?

Sadaski waved his hand, and, with averted look, turned from Selima.

“It is well,” continued the friend of Kaphira,—“the *generous* the *humane* Sadaski, rejects the glorious station to which he has been called; he is averse to engage in the task of mercy—to prevent the effusion of blood.—And of what avail is his refusal?—Will it save this devoted city?—No! The legions of Ardelia will surmount every impediment in the way of their progress; every bar they meet with, will only stimulate them to revenge, and render the fate of those who throw them in their path still more terrible!”

she paused—Sadaski remained fixed in sullen silence.

“Once again,” said Selima, “You have to make your choice;—trifle not, therefore, with your fate.—Accept the terms held forth, or for ever reject them, and fall a victim to your own folly : for can you entertain so weak a thought, as that of betraying our intention ; or imagine we shall suffer your escape from hence ’till our plans are brought to a noble close, till the king is driven from his seat, and Ardelia proves triumphant.”

“This bold avowal, delivered in a

tone and manner so determined, awakened Sadaski from the mental lethargy into which he had fallen.

During the distressing narrative, his perturbed bosom swelled with indignation; his varying countenance spoke the anguish of his heart; it beamed with all the noble energies of a mind aroused by the call of innate honour; and even the daring Selima appeared to shrink from his animated glance.

“Kaphira, “ said he,” is yet a stranger to my sight, and never may these eyes behold an object so baneful. Happy, thrice happy had it been for

the repose of this bosom, if Selima had remained equally unknown. Go, unfeeling and remorseless woman; away to thy sanguinary sister in the deed of darkness:—tell her your presumptuous threat has closed our conference; tell her Sadaski disdains her offer;—disdains to become her instrument.”

Ineffable contempt darted from the eyes of Selima, as she replied with empasioned and resolute aspect. “And hast thou, improvident, weak, and groveling as thou art, hast thou presumed to mix with the distinguished and wealthy of his kingdom, without

pretension and devoid of means? But tremble, thou reptile dupe to thine own passions, tremble at the punishment which awaits thee.

“ Know, Sadaski, it is with me to dispose of thy fate. Dost thou imagine that daring spirits such as swell the bosoms of Selima and Kaphira, will tamely suffer thy return? They better know what belongs to their own safety. They will soon be removed beyond the reach of those who would consign them to the disgrace and infamy of public punishment, and what is falsely termed, ‘ public justice.’—Saying this, Selima, throw-

ing open the doors of the apartment, vociferated—"Secure an enemy."

Sadaski was instantly surrounded by an armed party, against which he boldly defended himself. His undaunted spirit increased with his danger. His well nerved arm arrested the course of the sabre raised to destroy, he forced it from the hold of its owner, but scorned to pierce the bosom of the unarmed.

Several times was he surrounded by his adversaries, who were panic-struck by the proofs he displayed of an unshaken courage.

Selima became incensed, on beholding, as she did, her party, shrinking from the superior prowess of Salski. Unable to restrain her rage, she drew forth her dagger to deepen its stains, in the blood of another victim. But she had scarcely formed her desperate resolve, when her ears were suddenly pierced, with violent shrieks issuing from the chamber of Kaphira; and the cries of "Save her, save her."

Advancing to the door with an intent to hasten to the spot from whence the alarm proceeded, and learn the cause which she already but too well divined, her further progress was in-

stantly checked by the officers of justice, who had placed themselves there to oppose her passage, and prevent her escape.

Unable to account for appearances, and yet fatally assured they were prophetic of her own destruction, she enquired if she might be permitted to see Kaphira.

The principal officer replied, "Kaphira has fallen by her own hand; question no further, but prepare to answer the interrogations of others."

The fate of Kaphira appeared to

affect her still more than did the awful situation in which she was placed.

"Fallen by her own hand!" She reiterated, "Then Kaphira, no tongue can speak of thy disgrace, and vengeance will yet pursue its way."

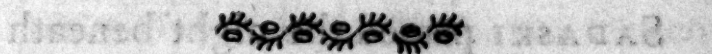
"Ere I depart for ever from your presence," She continued, "Suffer me, Sadaski, to speak to you apart.— Preserve an eternal silence on the important discovery with which you have been intrusted."—"Selima," replied Sadaski, "must withdraw her injunction. I have made no promise.

I shall break no faith. I shall preserve no silence.”—

“ Selima, with looks rivetted on Sadaski, said, “ and have you indeed resolved?—Are the days that are past to be utterly forgotten?—At a period, such as this, can you turn away from a last request?—But thus I enforce it!—Sadaski seized her hand; and wrenched the dagger from its grasp; saying, “ This weapon has been too deeply dyed already—but I shall preserve it in remembrance of Selima and Mithranes.”

The principal officer who had beheld the attempt of Selima, ordered

her instantly to be secured; and in this state she was ordered to a dungeon, till judgment should be passed on her crime.

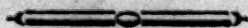


the roof of the royal palace, and on the succeeding day he had a private audience of the king.

However painful to describe the truth it was still a task which honour

CHAP. XVII.

SUPPORTED BY INTEGRITY AND HONOUR, DESPAIR NOT TO STEM THE TIDE OF AFFLICTION.



SADASKI passed the night beneath the roof of the royal palace, and on the succeeding day he had a private audience of the king.

However painful to divulge the truth, it was still a task which honour

demanding, and public justice required.

The prince had on former occasions but too frequently experienced a temporary deprivation of his senses; and the fatal certainty that he was no more to return to the circles of midnight riot and dissipation, was not even suspected, till the appearance of the body gave too evident ground to conclude that he had met his untimely end by poison.

Suspicion fell on Kaphira; it was confirmed by one of her attendants, whose confession was produced by

remorse for the part she had engaged in.

The king received Sadaski with that affectionate regard which his proved virtue demanded; for the monarch had heard from that part of the armed band who had undergone examination, and who had been stationed by the misguided prince in the caverns, those particulars which substantiated his claim to respect and confidence.

As Sadaski related his own misfortunes, his hearer sympathized with him. He shed tears for the

once innocent Kaphira, and refused not a sigh for the fate of her who had even rendered him childless, and had destroyed the last of his race.

—“The hermit’s story,” said he, “embraces matter of infinite importance to the welfare of this kingdom.—Alas! weak and unfortunate son, thou wouldst probably have beheld the crown torn from thy father’s head, and placed upon the brow of a stranger.

“Generous Sadaski, what a change dost thou witness, and in how short a space is that change produced.

Public business has been suffered to decline, public pleasure has supplied its place. Voluptuous enjoyments have disgraced my age; I dreamed not of enemies, I exulted in my son—but, alas, I have forgotten my people.

“To-morrow is appointed for the trial of Selima. The seat of judgment and of justice will be held in the Hall of Audience; Sadaski will be there, and receive the thanks of a people, we will yet trust he has rescued from destruction.

“Your friendship and esteem have

become the only anchor whereon I can rest any future hope : be to me as another son ; take up your abode in the palace ; and if, at a distant period, you can lose the remembrance of Emira—confer happiness upon some blooming daughter of the Golden Realm.”

Sadaski expressed his thanks and returned to his chamber ; and it was not 'till the night was for spent that, wearied with fatigue and intense thought, he sunk into a slumber.

Long ere the return of light, Sadaski quitted his pillow ; to employ

his thoughts on the important engagements he had entered upon. He experienced an inward satisfaction, in being the elected friend of a king, and was forming plans for his conduct, should he be called to any appointment in a state he had so materially served; when he heard the warning bell for the trial of Selima!

His reflections were now centred to one point. His former passion for that unhappy woman, had long been driven from his bosom; but the consideration that the last morning of her days was now on its advance; that the only witness fated to prove

the extent of her offence, was himself; filled his bosom with renewed compunction. He well knew he had but one point to contemplate, that of public justice. In the approaching solemnity no partial considerations were to be admitted; he was to forget how nearly they were once allied in the cause of guilt: he was to view the form he once beheld with rapture, loaded with chains; the countenance he once surveyed with passion, clouded by grief, or convulsed by rage, according to the varying sensations her situation could not fail to raise in a bosom, long at war with its own peace.

In the midst of these reflections, the superior of the prison, wherein Selima was confined, arrived at the palace.

He came charged with papers which he had undertaken to deliver to no other person, but Sadaski, to whom they were directed.

Breaking the seals of three inclosures, he came to a forth, unfolding which—he read,

FROM THE CELL
THAT ONCE CONTAINED
SELIMA!

It was written with the blood of

her existence, and fully explained its melancholy import,

On the return of the superior to the cell of Selima, he found her stretched lifeless on her pallet; at the head of which, in characters of once living crimson were traced—

I AM FREE!

I GO HENCE

TO JOIN

KAPHIRA.

The act of Selima was quickly made public. Pardon was extended to all who survived the contest in the chambers of the rocks, and at the

command of the king. The remains of the prince were consigned to the earth with the utmost privacy: by the same command a simple urn only marked his memory in the Temple of Statues, and its tablet bore at once a record, and a warning.

THIS URN
CONTAINS THE ASHES OF
THE HEIR TO THE THRONE
OF THE
GOLDEN REALM.

WHO WAS PREVENTED FROM TAKING
HIS SEAT THEREON
BY THE
INTERPOSITION OF PROVIDENCE.

The health of the king had been long in a tottering state; but the diversity of amusements which had filled up every passing hour in a voluptuous court, rendered him insensible of that decay which was visible to every eye but his own.

The late afflicting circumstance had wrought an entire change in his disposition; a portion of each returning day was devoted to private conference with those who had had the firmness to speak the dictates of the heart; and to condemn, in decisive terms, the conduct of men who would have plunged their country in

ruin, and rendered it an easy prey to the Ardelians.

In every public assembly Sadaski was considered as a member, and his counsel at all times adopted.

By his advice the secret passages were properly secured, and every necessary caution was taken to prevent any sudden invasion of the enemy. "As for the rest," said he, "you have only to unite among yourselves, and to defend that part of the Realm, which alone can be considered as vulnerable."

“ The sea which for many a league is beset with nature’s own bars against their approach, will, for ever remain a sure defence.—The land would certainly have afforded them a passage, and Kaphira’s perfidy would have led them, at an unexpected moment, even into the heart of your city.

“ And that passage the land may yet afford—but we are now prepared, should they have the temerity to attempt hostilities.—Yes, guardians of a kingdom, which through your means will become the seat of healthful power, and genuine freedom ; were the legions of Ardelia to

approach; it can only be from heights where they can never form, from heights commanded by still more towering ramparts, which beset them on every side. Walk forth and behold the exulting groupes of workmen engaged in the national task, now advancing with inconceivable progress to its completion: The riches heretofore wasted in the public feast, and all its baneful appendages, are now converted to a far nobler end.

—You can now frown defiance on a rival state, and repel the invader to whom you would once have fallen an unresisting prey.”

The popularity which Sadaski, had imperceptibly acquired, by the strength of his counsel, and the integrity which marked his conduct—by his rigid morality, and his mild and unaffected demeanor, was by no means confined to the court and its confines.—He never appeared in public, unattended with public blessings with which he was continually hailed by people of every description, and by whom he was considered as the saviour of the land.

But while the benevolent Sadaski was thus employed in reforming the manners of an altered and grateful

people; he was not, and on that account, without his secret enemies.

The immense wealth of the kingdom had been, for centuries back, almost wholly treasured up in the coffers of those whose boast consisted in a long and unbroken line of noble ancestry.

Thus the artificer and the dealer, although the inclosures which surrounded their respective dwellings abounded in rich veins of silver and of gold, were still kept in a comparative state of poverty; and those individuals who should presume to con-

vert to their own use, the smallest portion of native ore, although dug up with their own spade, and on their own ground, were sure to be punished with death.

Certain divisions of land, which most abounded with metallic treasure, were placed under the direction of those who accounted to government for its produce. There the severe task-master imposed his own laws upon the oppressed labourer, whose daily toil was excessive and unremitting.

The portions thus extracted from

the bowels of the earth were conveyed in carriages, attended by a watchful guard, to a large building contiguous to the palace, where it was formed into square and circular counters, and impressed with the likeness of the sovereign.

The rules to be observed in this place were misnamed GENERAL. Those who departed from them were liable, as they might be deemed more or less culpable, to censure, dismissal, or punishment; but while the middling and lower class were kept to the minutest letter of their duty, those who filled the higher depart-

ments were suffered to enrich themselves without a question. But they knew how to be grateful for such toleration ; and for such men, government and its instruments had a use.

To remedy these abuses, to check petty tyranny, to emancipate the poor from the shackles cast upon them by merciless and mercenary despots, became the care of Sadaski. The secret practices of those high in appointment were daily exposed, and the wealth thus amassed, distributed for the relief of those who had suffered by their monopoly and injustice.

For three revolving suns the land had smiled under the invaluable blessings of tranquillity and peace. The health of the king was much restored; he had dismissed from his court, every vestige of its former character; and in his own conduct he set an example to his subjects.

The days of Sadaski were uniformly devoted to public business. His wisdom, exertion, and consistency had effected much; but abuses of long standing, and stubborn evils, which those abuses had fatally engendered, were not quickly to be done away.

In order to relieve his mind from intense thought, and to change the scene after the toils he had engaged in for the general good, it had long been a custom with Sadaski to pass his evenings in wandering among the verdant and diversified allies at the termination of the palace garden, and which divided the mountains that rose cloathed with foliage, intermixed with the frequent streamlet that ran gurgling adown their sides.

On the broad and lofty summits of these mountains flourished, in native luxuriance, groves of cedar and of palm.

From the most exalted of these woody heights, it was his delight to look down upon the leafy heads of those beneath, while illumined by the glowing tints caught from the departing sun-beam.

At those calm and contemplative moments, they appeared, in the creative eye of fancy, as they waved to the influence of the breeze of evening, like the green and undulating waters of a sea of gold,

The country which surrounded the Golden Realm, abounded with prospects diversified and numerous. But

Sadaski was partial to that part of it which lay most contiguous to the royal palace.

The original entrance to the cavern of the hermit still remained, but the path to it was rendered perfectly secure, and less intricate. The secret way was also, by order of government, converted into a pleasant road; and at proper stations, the natives of both nations were supplied with every accommodation the traveller could require or demand.

Veins of silver and of gold, marked not the earth of Ardelia, nor were

the banks of its lakes, and rivers, with the precious gem, waiting only the artists form and polish to give it value.

But riches of equal worth, smiled over that luxuriant land. From its ever verdant heights, the eye beheld the valuable stores of nature, improved and increased by agriculture; and on every hand the happy peasantry engaged in healthful labour, in which they were assisted by their rising and ruddy progeny.

Thus lived Sadaski, amidst a people by whom he was idolized. His

conduct silenced the lip of prejudice, and in a general assembly of the people, his name was enrolled among those who had from time to time, evinced their worth by their deeds, and had proved themselves worthy of a distinction, which no wealth could purchase, and which could only prove the mead of public virtue.

A calm, to which he had long been a stranger, spread itself over the mind of Sadaski; it increased as public concerns still more and more engaged its attention; and the pillow of repose was never sought, before his prayer and praise were offered up for

mercies received, to their great and eternal cause.

Arising from this grateful task, and advancing to his couch of rest, after a day which had demanded a more than usual share of his attention; the chamber become suddenly illuminated; soft and impressive harmony seemed to issue from the ground; on which he once more beheld the GOLDEN CASKET.

Surrounded by the radiant circle that had before filled his breast with awe and reverence, the genius once

more appeared, and thus declared his mission.

“Sadaski has beheld the consequences of passion, he has beheld the licentious spurner of the laws of Alla, levelled to the dust; he has seen the end of fatal and fallacious pleasure.

“On his way to the Hall of Audience, the land of the Golden Realm appeared as the land of enchantment.

“Thus, also, every object in the region of despair, assumed a shape and aspect, threatening and terrific;

but their form and feature were no more than the vague and fantastic creations of a disordered and despairing mind.

These illusions have left impressions behind them, which must not be too hastily dismissed. They have been produced by yielding to the extremes of joy or sorrow; but instruction appears in a variety of ways, and life itself is but an allegory for humanity to contemplate.

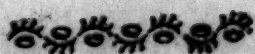
But the scenes which passed in the Hall of Audience, were those of reality. From the events of that night,

circumstances have arisen, which have put to the severest test, the honour, and the fortitude of the servant of Alla.—Well has he sustained the glorious conflict: future ages shall applaud his virtues; and those virtues shall preserve his memory, when the record on the tablet of the sculptured monument is destroyed by Time.

“ ’Till they are fully numbered, the hand of Alla, will hover o’er the days of Sadaski.

“ The mission of his guardian is now completed.—A sweet and tran-

quill repose awaits him : it will serve
 as a prelude to extended mercies ;
 to new wonders, which another day
 will unfold."



"Till they are fully numbered, the
 hand of Allah will hover over the days
 of Sadaski."

"The mission of his grandson is
 now completed.—A sweet and ita-

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CHAP. XVIII.

ESTABLISH THY THRONE, O KING, ON THE UN-
FAILING BASIS OF VIRTUE; AND THY SEAT
THEREON, SHALL BE SECURED TO THEE, AND
TO THINE HERITAGE, BY THE LOVE OF A
GRATEFUL PEOPLE.



THE doors of the tomb had been
some time closed on the remains of
the prince, when contrary to her own
expectation, and the general wish,
Irene had another affliction in store,
—She became a MOTHER!

The infant presented a melancholy memorial of the father's crimes, and of the mother's sorrows. The sickly hue of inherent disease was spread over its countenance; its features were ghastly and distorted, and, from its hollow and vacant eye, no effort could force, even the semblance of a smile, during its short and loathsome existence which happily terminated on the morning succeeding the last appearance of the genius to Sadaski.

But however averse the people might prove to her offspring, Irene was herself their favourite; the mildness of her manners procured their

love, her situation claimed their pity, and her virtues demanded their praise.

On receiving the grateful intelligence of the death of an infant, whose existence seemed a torment to itself, and whose disgusting form, distressed every beholder, Sadaski instantly repaired to the king. The complaint of the departed child was of a nature that rendered indispensable the immediate interment of its remains, and by the desire of Irene, they were with all privacy, placed by those of his father.

The solemnity of the day, however

obscure it had thus been rendered by the prudence of Irene, was inducement sufficient to Sadaski, to remain during its continuance, within the confines of the palace, and its surrounding solitudes.

Immediately after the mournful ceremony, the king, whose health was now rapidly declining, repaired to his chamber.—Irene also retired to reflect, without a witness, on those miseries the effects of which seemed to forebode her speedy dismissal from a life which joy had never cheered, and from which hope had for ever departed.

At the foot of the ascent, which led

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to the entrance of what was once termed the PRIVATE WAY, and which still retained the name of the HERMIT'S CELL, Sadaski had caused a pavilion to be erected, which from its perfect seclusion, and from the wild, pensive, and romantic character of its surrounding scenery he had chosen for his evening retreat.

On the departure of the king and Irene, Sadaski repaired to his favorite haunt.

The cell had long been restored to the state it was in at the death of the hermit; it was now secured from the

inroads of the curious traveller, and formed a part of the private boundary of the pavilion ; and from once being the scene of the present owner's escape from death and dishonour, he not unfrequently made choice of it for that of his contemplation.

On the pavement, clotted and still damp, appeared the blood of Kaphira, and there too, the instrument, that let it forth, still remained.

Thither Sadaski had retired, previous to his return to the palace ; his breast impressed with gratitude, and softened by reflection, on the change

a few revolving suns had produced in the conduct, temper, and pursuits of the king.

His mind thus disposed, he entered the chamber—he approached the spot, which bore on its crimson surface the record of Kaphira's deed.

The day was drawing to its close;—he felt an oppression at his heart;—a chilling tremor shook his frame; he called to remembrance the words of the genius. He slowly ejaculated, “In Alla, I repose my trust, I am prepared for ‘new wonders;’—every hour I experience ‘extended mercies.’ Alla

will never forget his gracious promises."

He arose to quit the chamber;—he heard, or thought he heard, a distant call of—"Sadaski!"—He was not mistaken—again in an accent, mild, fervent, and distinct, it repeated—"Sadaski!"

"Whoever thou art," he exclaimed, "approach; but enter not this chamber!" "Oh!" rejoined the voice, "dismiss every fear, if haply Sadaski will yet answer to the call of EMIR-RA!"

Sadaski rushed from the chamber, and clasped Emira to his bosom!

As he held her in his chaste embrace, that bosom throbbed with unutterable emotions. — “And who, said he,” “shall doubt the fulfillment of Alla’s promise!—Emira is restored!—She returns my embrace, and that proclaims her affection unshaken, her honour, unsullied.”

The first transports, arising from a blessing so far beyond any hope Sadaski could possibly have formed, a little subsiding, Emira, was supported by the lord of her heart to the palace,

and Irene, already made acquainted with their mutual story, received her with every mark of the tenderest affection.

Emira having attended to the adventures of Sadaski, gave in return the following brief relation.

“When Sadaski parted with his Emira, again to meet in the pavilions, I drank from a cup offered by my principal attendant, a certain potion, as she said, to preserve me from weariness during the amusements of the evening.

“The draught produced its intended

effect; I sunk down, oppressed with langour; and thus, as I was afterwards informed, I was conveyed in a state of insensibility to the Seraglio of the Sultan.

“His sudden affassination, preserved me from insult and disgrace, and in the general tumult I effected my escape.

“To avoid discovery, I changed my dress; with the juice of herbs, darkened my complexion; and as a lowly peasant, returned to our native vale.

“I returned, Sadaski, with a beating bosom.—My dearest lord was gone;

no tongue could tell me whither!—
strangers occupied our cottage.

“They spoke of thee, Sadaski!—
they called thee ‘unfortunate!’—I felt
the truth, and for their kind commise-
ration, I thanked them with my tears,

“They led me to the palace of Mi-
thranes.—On the night I was borne
away, it was destroyed by fire.—I ex-
perienced a short relief in pacing its
ruins.

“Mithranes, in a few days, present-
ed himself, weak and wounded, to the
wondering natives of the vale, which

but for his appearance there, would never have lost its tranquillity.

“ Rewards having been offered to such as should secure his person ; Mithranes thankfully accepted the proffered shelter ; and by extreme attention, and contrary to the expectation of all who had first beheld him, he was restored to life.

“ And that life would still have been preserved to him, if the manners of a few of the natives had not, through his means, departed from their original purity. Thus corrupted, and eager for the stipulated reward, they discovered

his retreat; and he was only restored to existence, to lose it eventually, by the bow-string.

“Orantes, likewise, was discovered in a retreat he had flown to, and met a similar fate.

“At the time of my return, tranquillity again blessed the plains once so dear to us. It was my good fortune to meet with a party of merchants who were on their return to a far distant city, named Ardelia. I put myself under their protection, and I found the Ardelians a generous and polished people,

" The pearls, and gems, which profusely enriched the dress I wore in the seraglio, I still possessed, and I found no difficulty in exchanging them for as much current wealth as my present and future wants required.

" Contiguous to the city I made choice of a retirement, where I resolved to end my days, and to cherish in my heart, 'till life's latest moment, the memory of its dearest object.

" It is only for ourselves to speak to the transport which rushed upon that heart, when, as the road of intercourse

between this kingdom, and that of Ardelia was compleated, I first heard it would lead me to Sadaski."

The restoration of Emira to Sadaski became the public theme; and the natives of Ardelia, were not less sincere in their congratulations, than were those of the Golden Realm.

Its unfortunate monarch did not long survive the present period, and with his last breath he expressed his wish, that Sadaski might be called to the throne:

And that Sadaski should rule the land

he had saved, became the wish of every individual.

In a public assembly of the people, convened for the occasion, that wish was confirmed.

As his virtues were enumerated, and his signal services were dwelt upon, the air re-echoed with "Sadaski shall be our ruler; Sadaski has been the saviour of our land."

Thus called upon, he yielded to THE GENERAL VOICE, and SADASKI and EMIRA ascended THE THRONE OF THE REALM OF GOLD.

Their reign proved long and prosperous ; and when they were removed to immortal honours, they left behind them,—a numerous progeny, and a happy people.

FINIS.



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